



Adult Supported Living Program

The Adult Supported Living Program was created to enable individuals age 18 and over who have physical disabilities in combination with a secondary disability to begin or continue living independently in the community with case coordination support. The program operates utilizing the independent living philosophy in which the individual consumer has the right and responsibility to make informed choices, take risks and perhaps even at times fail.

What We Do

The Adult Supported Living Program provides case coordination services to the individual with a physical disability and an additional secondary disability to assist him or her in managing and organizing various aspects of day-to-day life. The Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission contracts with several agencies across the state to provide these case coordination services. A case coordinator meets with a consumer of services on an as-needed basis generally in his or her home. A case coordinator is also available via phone on a 24 hour a day basis, for emergencies and unforeseen problems. While the average consumer requires approximately one 3-hour meeting per week to accomplish needed tasks, case coordination can range from a few hours per month to ten hours per week.

The case coordinator and consumer jointly develop a plan to address the specific aspects of daily life in which assistance is needed. The case coordinator does not make decisions for a consumer or do physical tasks. Rather, the emphasis is on organizing, finding resources and problem solving. Areas in which assistance can be provided are as follows.

- PCA Management
- Personal Health Care Management
- Adaptive Equipment
- Housing
- Household Management
- Financial Management
- Social/Recreation Management
- Vocational/Education Management
- Transportation Management
- Self Advocacy

Who is Eligible: Individuals who meet the following criteria are eligible.

*Have a severe physical disability accompanied by other sensory, cognitive or emotional limitations that significantly impede day-to-day life management.

*Have a mobility impairment which results in the need for adaptive equipment for ambulation, or in significant limitation in unassisted ambulation due to impairment in strength, coordination or stamina.

*Reside in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

*Ineligible for services through the MRC Statewide Head Injury Program (SHIP).

* Ineligible for any service that meets a similar need for support provided by any other EOHHS agency or state funding source.

*Have the ability to tolerate the emotional stresses of community living, with reasonable supports, and have the cognitive ability to direct their case coordinators.

*Must be 18 years of age or older.

How to Apply: Apply by contacting Cynthia Wentz at MRC (see contact information below). The Adult Supported Living Program operates under a model of consumer choice. Therefore, any interested consumer who appears to meet the eligibility criteria listed above will be sent information on the supported living case management agencies in his or her area of the state and will be asked to choose an agency. That agency will then:

- Assess the individual's eligibility and need for supported living services. This may include gathering medical and other records.
- Determine with the individual how much case coordination is projected to be needed in each area listed above.

MRC has final authority in determining whether supported living case coordination services are needed by and appropriate for each individual. Because of funding limitations, there may be a waiting list for services. Should this be the case, individuals are placed on the waiting list according to pre-established priority categories on a first come first served basis.

What else Should You Know?

- There is generally no financial need criteria for supported living case coordination services.
- The purpose of supported living is to assist the consumer in specific tasks per his or her direction. The program does not include the provision of companionship or supervision. Consumers must possess the cognitive and psychological abilities to make safe decisions on a moment-to-moment basis.

Other Support Services:

There are a range of day programs and in-home supports available for individuals with disabilities. They include, but are not limited to, day habilitation, adult day health care, adult foster care, assisted living, homemakers, home health aides and personal care assistance. These resources may be able to meet some of the individual's needs in order to begin or continue living independently in the community. For more information, contact a local Independent Living Center or Council on Aging. The state agencies generally responsible for these other support services are the Division of Medical Assistance or the Executive Office of Elder Affairs.

For more information, contact:

Adult Supported Living Program
27 Wormwood St., Boston, MA 02210-1616
Phone: (617) 204-3628 (voice) (617) 204-3815 (TDD)
Fax: (617) 727-1354
Email: cindy.wentz@mrc.state.ma.us

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (*ADA*) prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in employment and public services provided by government agencies. If consumers or employees of the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission believe they have been discriminated against on the basis of disability, they should contact the Commission's Civil Rights Officer: Albert Jones, Jr., 27 Wormwood Street, Suite 600, Boston, MA 02210-1616, Telephone 617-204-3762 (*Voice*), 1-800-245-6543 (*TTY*).